in a Government hospital/private hospital recognised under CGHS or .under CS(MA) Rules for the purpose.

The 5th Central Pay Commission's recommendation at (i) above has since been implemented, granting Fixed Medical Allowance Rs. 100/-to the Central Government pensioners residing in areas not covered by CGHS w.e.f. 1.12.1997. A fixed medical allowance Rs. 100/-p.m. is granted to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners residing in areas not covered by the CGHS administered by the Ministry of Health & F W and corresponding Health Schemes administered by other Ministries/Departments for their retired employees for meeting expenditure on day-to day medical expenses that do not require hospitalisation.

So far as the recommendation at (ii) above is concerned, it was considered that although this Ministry agreed in principle to extend the CS(MA) Rules, to Central Govt, pensioners residing outside CGHS areas, yet due to limited resources; financial and administrative: it was found not feasible by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take over the responsibility of reimbursement of medical expenditure for indoor hospitalisation and treatment in respect of such pensioners.

Extension of CS(MA) Rules to pensioners would involve induction of 36 lakhs pensioners residing outside CGHS area, throughout the country. The extension of this facility is not possible for the pensioners for waving huge financial resources (approx. 1800 crores per annum) involved.

New Medical College in Safdarjung Hospital

1375. MISSFRIDATOPNO: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet has recently approved a new Medical College in Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, whether candidates who have cleared DPMT test would be considered for admission for the academic year 2001;

(c) the number of seats available for unreserved and reserved candidates, category-wise; and

(d) the number of seats for BDS/MBBS, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposed Indraprastha Medical College at Safdarjung Hospital has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The number of seats for the MBBS Course in the proposed College is 100 out of which 23 seats are reserve'd for SC/ST candidates.

Status of mental health facilities in the country

1376. SHRI DIN A NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of mental health facilities in the country with regard to doctors, hospitals and drug manufacturing;

(b) whether there is a policy to tackle the growing mental illness of various modes in India and undertake research projects for it;

(c) whether social awareness programmes are conducted by Government and various State Governments;

(d) the size of populace suffering from mental illness; and

(e) whether Government have conducted any census or survey of mental patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) There are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals in the country. In addition there are about 3500 beds located in general hospitals/affiliated to medical colleges. There are about 40 training centres for post-graduate study in psychiatry. In addition there are 40 to 50 private psychiatric facilities in the country. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable. Under the National Mental Health Programme, the Government has already initiated a pilot programme named the District Mental Health Programme, which is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identity persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary healthcare centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. The mental health care delivery system is proposed to be upgraded/expanded during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. A number of research projects have been undertaken and major research initiatives are planned for the Tenth Five Year Plan period.